

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 are presently active in this case. Claims 1-25 are amended by way of the present amendment. No new matter has been added.

The outstanding Office Action rejects Claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite, but indicates that Claims 1-25 will be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the identification of the allowable subject matter.

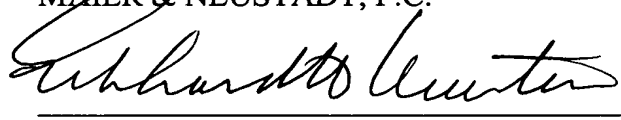
Applicants note that the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 5, 2003 has not been properly acknowledged. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider all the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the form filed therewith.

In regard to the rejection of Claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Applicants have amended Claims 1-25 to more clearly define the present invention. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-25 fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that each and every one of Claims 1-25 defines patentable subject matter, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and timely allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

I:\ATTY\CP\201364US\201364US-AM.doc